

**KING COUNTY ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD  
BOARD PLANNING RETREAT MINUTES  
MAY 16, 2006**

**Members Present:** Linda Brown, Joan Clement, Michelle Di Miscio, Dan Foley, Naren Gangadhar, Pat Godfrey, Roger Goodman, Larry Hill, Tim King, Mary Alice Knotts, Mariah Lewis (awaiting confirmation)

**Members Absent:** Jenna Henderson (excused), Yasmin Smith (excused)

**Guests Present:** Cathy Clemens, Doug Stevenson

**Staff Present:** Bill Block, Rhoda Naguit, Jim Vollendroff

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The board planning retreat of the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) was held at the Dutch Shisler Sobering Service Center, 1930 Boren Avenue in Seattle. Dinner was served at 4:30 p.m.

## **I. REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF BOARD ETHICS**

Cathy Clemens, Executive Director of King County Board of Ethics, met with the Board to discuss the King County Code of Ethics and the work of the King County Board of Ethics. Copies of the Code of Ethics were distributed to Board members. The Code was established help county employees avoid conflicts of interest and to provide guidance in the event of such conflicts. According to section 3.04.017 of the Code of Ethics, members of all King County boards and commissions are considered county employees. As such they are subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics, including the sections relating to conflicts of interest.

Copies of the Board brochure were also distributed. The brochure highlights portions of the ethics code that relate specifically to board members and their service on behalf of King County. The primary goal of the Board of Ethics is to help ensure that all actions and transactions of county employees are transparent and free from conflict of interest, and build and support the goal of public trust in government.

Copies of Advisory Opinion 1081 were also distributed. This document identifies the process to be used by board, commission, or committee members in situations of potential conflicts of interest.

Several Board members shared specific situations that could be potential conflicts of interest and the Board discussed these situations with Catherine. Catherine emphasized the following guidelines for Board members to use when faced with a potential conflict of interest situation.

- Disclose potential conflicts of interest in advance to the appropriate department director or division manager.
- Publicly disclose conflicts of interest at board meetings, and

- Abstain from participating in discussion or voting on any issue in which there is a conflict of interest.

Board Chair Linda Brown thanked Cathy Clemens for her clear, relevant, and timely presentation. The presentation provided new board members information about the County Code of Ethics and was a useful refresher for other members of the Board. Catherine is always available for consultation and discussion about potential conflict of interest situations and other ethical concerns.

## **II. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Joan Clement made a motion, which was seconded by Tim King to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2006 board meeting as corrected. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. RECOVERY GARDEN WORKGROUP REPORT**

Tim King reported that the Recovery Garden Workgroup made a site visit to Greg Davis Park where the Recovery Garden will be constructed. Construction work in the Park started in April. The Recovery Garden component of the project should be underway in late July/early August. Hopefully the Recovery Garden will be ready for this year's Recovery Month celebration. There are still a number of cobblestones to be sold. Tim encouraged everyone at the table to purchase a cobblestone or assist in the sale of the cobblestone.

## **IV. VETERANS AND HUMAN SERVICES LEVY**

Doug Stevenson, Lead Analyst of the King County Council Law, Justice and Human Services Committee, briefed the Board on the Veterans and Human Services Levy.

In November 2005, the King County voters passed Proposition One, a six-year regional health and human services levy to fund veterans programs and other human service needs. The funding will come from a county property tax levy of 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for six years, which is estimated to raise about \$13.3 million per year. Half of the revenue raised by the levy will fund services for veterans, military personnel and their families, including specific services to meet the needs of the veterans such as post-traumatic stress disorder counseling, specialized employment assistance, domestic violence counseling, housing assistance, and mental health counseling.

The other half will fund regional health and human services. The Department of Community and Human Services and the Department of Public Health are coordinating the implementation plan for this funding.

Currently, Doug is developing an ordinance for the Council to provide direction to the King County Executive on how to invest these funds to improve the delivery of services to veterans and others in need.

The Council created two citizen oversight boards, each consisting of 12 members, to report on the expenditure of levy proceeds. The veterans' citizen oversight board will oversee the funds for regional human services for veterans, military personnel and their families. The regional human service board will oversee the funds for regional health and human services for a wide range of low-income people in need of such services. The two boards will report back to the Executive and the Council on the effectiveness of the programs and make recommendations for future improvements. The Board asked Doug about membership on these committees. Doug referred the Board to Terry Mark, Associate Director of the Department for this information.

Doug stated that the implementation of the levy might provide a model for programs that could be funded should the County Council decide to enact the 0.1% sales tax increase addressed in SB5763 (Hargrove Bill). The Mental Health Advisory Board and the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board have asked the Council to enact the increase

Liz Gilbert will present the implementation plan to the Board in the June meeting for their review and input. The background Doug provided will enable to Board to do this in a much more informed way. Board Chair Linda Brown thanked Doug Stevenson for his valuable presentation.

## **V. TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS PRESENTATION**

Bill Block, CEHKC Project Director, gave an overview of homelessness in King County and gave a clear and concise description of how the King County Committee to End Homelessness Plan differs from other homeless program efforts, the key strategies of the plan, and the structure of the Committee to End Homelessness.

The number of homeless in King County has grown every year. The estimate is that 24,000 people experience homelessness at some time each year. There are over 8,300 homeless people in King County each night. Of that number, 27% of the homeless in shelters are children under age 17. The 40 chronically homeless individuals who are the highest users of Harborview and the Sobering Center cost the County over \$2 million per year.

Bill addressed the question of what ending homelessness means. It means preventing homelessness; integrating housing and services; moving people rapidly to permanent supported housing (Housing First models); addressing racial disproportionality; measuring results; and continuing to build the political will to address the causes of homelessness and provide the support necessary to end homelessness.

One of the most challenging issues is to secure funding from private/public sources to help finance the building or renovation of housing dedicated to serve homeless individuals. The estimate is that 7,300 new units of housing will be needed to eliminate

homelessness in King County today. In addition, ongoing mortgage and rental assistance is needed for those who will be utilizing new housing resources.

Bill stated that homelessness is a regional problem; therefore, the governance structure of the Committee to End Homelessness has a broad regional approach to address this issue. The Governance structure includes:

- Governing Board composed of political, faith community, non-profit, philanthropic, and for profit community leaders from throughout the region
- Interagency Council comprised by Department Head and Executive Director level leaders from all aspects of the coalition and all parts of the County, including homeless and formerly homeless members. Jackie MacLean, Director of the Department of Community and Human Services, is a member of this Council.
- Consumer Advisory Council represents the consumers - homeless and formerly homeless people to review, advise and recommend based on actual experience

The various committees and task force have representation from homeless membership to ensure that their needs are addressed.

Bill Block emphasized the importance of coordination of services to the overlapping chronic populations that make up the homeless. Several current projects provide opportunities for coordination and collaboration among the many programs in the County. They include the 1811 Eastlake facility, the Passage Point, Connections, South King County Pilot, an RFP for CEH Committee Project using \$3 million of HB 2163 monies and 200 Section 8 vouchers, and planning for Veterans and Human Services Levy projects. The RFP is due for submission on June 5, 2006.

There is a need to increase the public/political will to reduce the barriers to implementation of the plan to end homelessness. The costs of chronic homelessness affect all citizens, and that fact is a key to helping all county residents understand this plan and its effectiveness.

The following legislative and public awareness activities are supportive of the goals of the Plan:

- HB 2418 – \$21 million to Housing Trust Fund
- HB 2002 – Continuing foster care support to those continuing education
- Endorsements by governments, faith communities, providers
- New funding from many partners, including Veterans and Human Services Levy
- Public Awareness survey underway to guide broad public outreach

Linda thanked Bill for his informative presentation. CD services are a core need for many homeless individuals and the Board would like to work with the CEH in any way possible. Board members were encouraged to go to the Committee websites ([www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org) or [www.tenyearplankc.org](http://www.tenyearplankc.org) for more information about the Plan and the activities of the Committee.

## **VI. DIVISION PRIORITIES AND ISSUES**

**Division Priorities:** Jim Vollendroff will do a more in-depth presentation of the Division priorities and issues at the July Board meeting. In this brief presentation, he reviewed the following Department/Division's priorities:

- Criminal Justice
- Homelessness
- Employment

In addition to the County Department priorities the Division has to integrate the DASA State priorities into plans. The State priorities are services for parenting and/or pregnant women, IV drug users, parents with dependent children, continuum of care, and youth services.

**Methadone Wait List:** The Board asked Jim about the methadone wait list. The wait list has grown to 200-300 again. Almost all of these individuals are non-Medicaid clients for whom there is no funding. Funding is the primary barrier to accessing methadone treatment at this time. A number of Board members had questions about methadone treatment. Ron Jackson, Director of Evergreen Treatment Services, will be invited to speak about opium substitution treatment at a coming Board meeting.

**Evidence Based Treatment:** The emphasis on evidence-based treatment was discussed. Best practices and evidence based treatment remains a priority. Part of the discussion focused on how to help providers take programs that they know are effective and do the work that is necessary to establish these programs as evidence based practices. Agencies need technical assistance to take this step and the Division with the Board should look at the resources available to offer this assistance. Use of the GAIN should help with the process.

**Treatment Completion Rates:** Jim Vollendroff reported that treatment completion for youth this year has gone up over 50% compared with 30% five years ago and treatment retention for 90 days is 69%. He applauded the youth agency for their efforts to keep these figures moving up.

In recognition for an outstanding performance on treatment completion rate for youth this year, the Board will extend its appreciation to the CD Youth Providers verbally and in writing.

**Treatment Expansion:** Meeting treatment expansion targets remains a challenge. The County has tapped all the more willing populations for the treatment expansion services. The next steps toward meeting treatment expansion targets will be challenging for provider agencies.

## **VII. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee:** Board Chair Linda Brown reported that the Board Mental Health Advisory Board Chair, Ron Sterling, has asked that the next Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee (LAPAC) Chair be a member of the MHAB. MHAB member Jim Nobles will be nominated as Chair by the MHAB. KCASAAB member Roger Goodman, who has served as chair of LAPAC for two consecutive terms, welcomed the timely change as he will be running for legislative office in the 45<sup>th</sup> district. It is again time to start considering the legislative priorities for the 2006-07 legislative session which will be a focus of the joint-Board meeting in September. Linda asked members to volunteer for the LAPAC. Dan Foley is willing to serve on this committee.

**Joint MHAB and CD Board Meeting:** The joint meeting of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board and the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board will be held on September 7, 2006 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Safeco Jackson Street Center, 306 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle.

**SB 5763 (Hargrove Bill) Update:** There is nothing new on the 0.1% sales tax initiative. Doug Stevenson has been asked by the County Council to brief the full Council on the issue. Linda has volunteered the Board to assist in any way possible with this effort. This proposed sales tax initiative might be more feasible for next year than this year due to so many funding issues coming from all sectors. The Department of Community and Human Services has convened an internal workgroup composed of county staff to identify priorities and processes should the initiative be enacted.

**Mental Health Report Card:** Copies of the Mental Health Report Card were distributed. Board members were asked to look at the report and give input to Debra Srebnik.

**New Officers:** The Nominations Committee will meet immediately after this meeting and will present a slate of officers for action in the June Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit  
Recording Secretary

Linda Brown  
Board Chair